

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Steger (66034) on 4/15/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

Regarding the claims:

Claim 2: line 1, change "11" to --10--.

Claim 9: line 1, change "11" to --10--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in sole independent claim 11, and at least in part because claim 11 recites: "A microswitch comprising a deformable membrane, the microswitch comprising: at least two flexure arms, each comprising two opposite ends, each end being directly attached to a substrate, at least one contact arm arranged between the at least two flexure arms, the contact arm being independently and directly attached to each of said flexure arms in a

central part of said flexure arms, the contact arm remaining substantially parallel to the substrate and deforming less than the at least two flexure arms upon actuation of the microswitch, the at least two flexure arms and the contact arm being substantially parallel to each other in a first stable position, the flexure arm comprising actuating means...to deform the flexure arms...a first conducting pad formed on the substrate and at least a second conducting pad arranged on the contact arm, and complementary electrostatic holding means respectively fixedly secured to the membrane and the substrate..." (emphasis added). The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claim 11, are believed to render the claim and all claims dependent therefrom (claims 2, 5-10) patentable over the art of record.

None of the references (including the 5 newly cited references (e.g. Schlaak et al. (US 5,629,565)...Cetiner et al. (US 7,084,724))) cited during prosecution of the instant application, either taken alone or in combination, is believed to render the present invention unpatentable as claimed.

Furthermore, the Examiner has performed inventor and assignee name searches for possible double patenting issues. No documents with conflicting claims have been identified.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRADLEY H. THOMAS whose telephone number is (571)272-9089. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 3:30pm (Eastern).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jayprakash N. Gandhi can be reached on 571-272-3740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BHT

/Jayprakash N Gandhi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2835